Chinese views on Indian position in Kashmir

2274. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China reluctant to endorse Indian position in Kashmir", which appeared in 'The Hindu' dated the 18th November, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any attempt has been made to ascertain the reasons for the Chinese position; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of the People's Republic of China describes its relationship with Pakistan as an "all-weather friendship" and is willing to make common efforts to further deepen and expand a "comprehensive cooperative partnership" between China and Pakistan.

(c) and (d) India's position on Jammu and Kashmir constituting an inalienable and integral part of India has consistently been put across to the Chinese side.

Compensation to Indians by Myanmar

2275. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 7981 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st May, 1995 and state:

(a) The cases of compensation to Indians by Myanmar which have been settled finally;

(b) the cases which have not been settled so far;

(c) the reasons for non-settlement of the cases; and

(d) the steps taken/are being taken to get the cases settled expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) A total number of 43 compensation cases are still pending with the Government of Myanmar. The Embassy of India has been regularly taking up these cases with the Myanmar authorities. However, it appears that due to financial constraints, the Government of Myanmar is unable to settle these cases.

(d) In the recently concluded bilateral Foreign Office Consultations (November 24-28, 2002), it has been agreed that all pending consular and financial matters will be taken up at the official level. The Government of Myanmar has invited an official delegation to visit Yangon for discussion on the matter. The modalities for the meeting are being worked out.

Indian Consulate at Jalalabad in Afghanistan

2276. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afgan Government has refused India to open its Consulate at Jalalabad; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken to open an office at Jalalabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Missions without Heads

2277. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Indian Missions abroad are without regular heads;

(b) if so, the names of such Missions and since when they are without heads; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to fill up these vacancies without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. There are six Indian